

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1: (Currently Amended) A pair of self-alignable, ladder-like structures integral with one another in a single sheet of electroconductive material wherein a hinge joint is formed parallel to the rails of said ladder-like structures by folding 180° along a hinge line separating said ladder-like structures and wherein ~~the~~ rungs of each of said ladder-like structures are sized and spaced to be aligned with one another when ~~the~~ said hinge joint is in a closed position and to form an elongated tunnel therebetween.

Claim 2: (Currently Amended) A pair of ladder-like structures positioned in register with one another to form a tunnel therebetween wherein said structures are integral with one another by folding 180° along ~~and have~~ a hinge joint axis parallel to the longitudinal axis of said tunnel.

Claim 3: (Deleted)

Claim 4: (Currently Amended) A method for fabricating a precise miniature ladder-type device of a thin malleable electroconductive sheet of material comprising:
applying a precise mask by photolithographic techniques of the desired structure on a thin electroconductive sheet;
etching the unmasked portions to remove precisely the unmasked portions of the sheet material to result in a ladder-like structure with precisely spaced rungs; ~~and~~
~~etching the unmasked portions to remove precisely the unmasked portions of the sheet material to result in a ladder-like structure with precisely spaced rungs; and~~

forming the etched sheet along its longitudinal axis to recess the rung members from the plane of the sheet material; and
folding the etched sheet 180° along a hinge line onto itself to form the ladder-type device.

Claim 5: (Deleted)

Claim 6: (Currently Amended) The integral pair of self-alignable, ladder-like structures of Claim 1, wherein the electroconductive material is sufficiently malleable to have the pair of ladder-like structures folded about a continuous linear hinge member to form an elongated cavity ~~with through~~ configured as a linear bore.

Claim 7: (Previously Added) The integral pair of self-alignable, ladder-like structures of Claim 1, wherein said electroconductive material is curable to form a rigid structure.

Claim 8: (Previously Added) The integral pair of self-alignable, ladder-like structures of Claim 7, wherein said rigid structure comprises a circular cross-section.

Claim 9: (Previously Added) The integral pair of self-alignable, ladder-like structures of Claim 7, wherein said rigid structure comprises a hexagonal cross-section.

Claim 10: (Previously Added) The integral pair of self-alignable, ladder-like structures of Claim 7, wherein said rigid structure comprises a octagonal cross-section.

Claim 11: (Previously Added) The integral pair of self-alignable, ladder-like structures of Claim 7, wherein said rigid structure comprises a square cross-section.

Claim 12: (Previously Added) The integral pair of self-alignable, ladder-like structures of Claim 7, wherein said rigid structure comprises copper or copper alloys.

Claim 13: (Previously Added) The integral pair of self-alignable, ladder-like structures of Claim 7, wherein said rigid structure comprises molybdenum or molybdenum alloys.

Claim 14: (Previously Added) A precise miniature ladder-type device formed according to the method of Claim 4.

Claim 15: (Currently Amended) The precise miniature ladder-type device of Claim 14, wherein said precise miniature ladder-type device is configured to be folded 180° along a hinge line to form a rigid structure having a defined cross-section.

Claim 16: (Previously Added) The precise miniature ladder-type device of Claim 15, wherein said defined cross-section is selected from the group consisting of: circular, square, hexagonal and octagonal.

Claim 17: (Previously Added) The method of Claim 4, further comprising separating said ladder-like structure from a substrate.

Claim 18: (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 17, further comprising folding 180° ~~said ladder-like structure~~ along a hinge line formed between two half-structures of the ladder-like structure to form a rigid structure having an elongated cavity ~~with~~ through configured as a linear bore.

Claim 19: (Previously Added) The method of Claim 18, wherein the rigid structure comprises a cross-section shape selected from the group consisting of: circular, square, hexagonal and octagonal.

Claim 20: (Previously Added) The method of Claim 4, further comprising providing a substrate from which said precise miniature ladder-type device is formed.

Claim 21: (Previously Added) The method of Claim 20, wherein providing a substrate comprises providing an electroconductive material comprising at least one of: copper, copper alloy, molybdenum, molybdenum alloy, conductive ceramic and silicon.

Claim 22: (Previously Added) The pair of ladder-like structures of Claim 2, wherein said hinge joint axis is configured to allow said pair of ladder-like structures to fold and form said tunnel having a defined cross-section.

Claim 23: (Previously Added) The pair of ladder-like structures of Claim 22, wherein said defined cross-section is selected from the group consisting of: circular, square, hexagonal and octagonal.

Claim 24: (Previously Added) The pair of ladder-like structures of Claim 22, wherein said tunnel comprises at least one of: copper, copper alloy, molybdenum, molybdenum alloy, conductive ceramic and silicon.